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Outcome of the Conference

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HABITAT AGENDA

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

1 At its second intersessional meeting held in Paris from 9 to 13 October 1995, the Informal Drafting Group of the Preparatory Committee for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to present to the Preparatory Committee at its third substantive session a report proposing "suitable and cost-effective coordination and cooperation mechanisms for the full participation of United Nations agencies in the implementation of *The Habitat Agenda*, to be prepared in close consultation with all relevant partners within the United Nations system" (para. 21 of the draft *Report of the Informal Drafting Group ... at its second intersessional meeting*, Paris, 9-13 October 1995).

2 Pursuant to the above request, the secretariat distributed the latest version of *The Habitat Agenda* to agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, accompanied by a request that each of these Habitat II partners identify specific programmes and subprogrammes in *The Habitat Agenda* for which it could provide implementation support. Contributions from United Nations agencies and organizations are to be submitted to the Habitat II secretariat by 5 January 1996. The present document provides a summary of the background and status of the work in progress. The final report, as requested by the Informal Drafting Group at its second intersessional meeting (Paris, 9-13 October 1995), will be presented to the Preparatory Committee as a conference room paper at its third substantive session.

I. INTRODUCTION

1 It may be recalled that the General Assembly in its resolution 47/180, section 2 (*b*) (vii), decided that the Habitat II global plan of action should include "recommendations on ways in which the role of the United Nations and existing institutional arrangements for international cooperation and coordination in human settlements can be strengthened" Within the text of the most recent draft of the Habitat II global plan of action (i e , part IV of *The Habitat Agenda*), such recommendations would logically fall within chapter F, "Implementation and follow-up of the Global Plan of Action"

2 Because the sections of *The Habitat Agenda* were discussed in consecutive order, neither PrepCom 2 nor the two intersessional meetings of the Informal Drafting Group of the Preparatory Committee had sufficient time to complete the elements of chapter F, which is the last section of the document. At the close of its work on *The Habitat Agenda* in Paris, the Informal Drafting Group (IDG) was concerned that this final chapter of the document paid insufficient attention to mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation in implementing the Global Plan of Action and that the chapter was in need of further elaboration. Consequently, the IDG requested that the secretariat consult closely with relevant agencies and organizations within the United Nations system and produce a report proposing suitable and cost-effective coordination and cooperation mechanisms for the full participation of United Nations agencies in the implementation of *The Habitat Agenda*

3 Given the above-cited decision of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the Conference determined that it would be appropriate to propose, as part of the requested report on coordination and cooperation mechanisms, specific language which could, after due deliberation by the Preparatory Committee, be considered for incorporation into chapter F of *The Habitat Agenda*

II. BUILDING ON OTHER UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES

4 As a first step, the secretariat has examined the equivalent chapters of the programmes of action from other recent United Nations conferences Most of these programmes of action clarify and integrate the policy and coordination roles of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the governing bodies charged with follow-up to the conference, the Office of the Secretary-General and its high-level inter-agency coordination mechanisms, the secretariat support structures, and the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. Based on the secretariat's analysis, chapter 38 of Agenda 21 and chapter 5 of the programme of action from the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) were retained as models as they systematically address the above-cited coordination issues in supporting system-wide implementation of their respective programmes of action

5. The United Nations system has now had over three years' experience of putting into place the coordination and cooperation mechanisms proposed in chapter 38 of Agenda 21. Chapter 5 of the WSSD programme of action builds on that experience, presenting a negotiated consensus on how the various parts of the United Nations system should be organized for implementation of the intersecting programme elements issuing from the Copenhagen Conference The Administrative Committee on Coordination is now considering, among other things, system-wide actions to provide coordinated assistance to countries in translating the outcomes of recent United Nations global conferences into concrete national policies and programmes. The coincidence of these system-wide efforts and the Habitat II preparatory process allows the drafters of *The Habitat Agenda* to take advantage of the debates, discussions and decisions surrounding the implementation of programmes of action from earlier conferences. In the process of reporting to the Preparatory Committee at its third substantive session, the secretariat will also consider carefully the implications of the coordination and cooperation mechanisms that are evolving within the United Nations system

III. AN ON-GOING PARTNERSHIP

6 Committed to playing an important role in the implementation and follow-up to *The Habitat Agenda*, a large number of United Nations agencies and organizations have been key partners with the secretariat from the outset of the preparatory process for Habitat II. They have participated in PrepComs 1 and 2 and in both of the intersessional meetings of the Informal Drafting Group. United Nations agencies and organizations have been sponsors of numerous Habitat II workshops and round tables during "The Learning Year" and, most importantly, have been engaged in the drafting process for *The Habitat Agenda*. Among the United Nations agencies and organizations which have contributed, many of them extensively, to the drafting process are: UNDHA, DPCSD, UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNV, UNEP, UNCRD, UNIDO, UNU, DPI, UNESCO, WHO, ILO, WMO, UNRISD, DESIPA, UNICEF, the Regional Commissions and the World Bank. Many of their contributions have been directly incorporated by the Preparatory Committee and its Informal Drafting Group into the present draft of *The Habitat Agenda*.

IV. THE PARTNERS' ROLES

7 Building on these close working partnerships, the secretariat has distributed the latest draft of *The Habitat Agenda* (A/CONF.165/PC.3/4) to agencies and organizations within the United Nations system. The draft was accompanied by the request that each of these Habitat II partners identify the sections of *The Habitat Agenda* for which it has the capacity, priority interest and commitment to provide concerted support for the implementation of the global plan of action. It is the secretariat's intention that the report, requested by the IDG, will reflect the information gathered in this process in terms similar to those contained in the section on organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in chapter 38 of Agenda 21, section H (paras. 38.20 to 38.28). These concise contributions from United Nations organizations and agencies are to be submitted to the Habitat II secretariat by 5 January 1996. Thereafter, the Secretary-General will prepare the report on "Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system in the implementation of The Habitat Agenda" for submission as a conference room paper (CRP) to the Preparatory Committee at its third session.

V. THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

8 To strengthen the information feedback process, the secretariat has also embarked on a series of consultations with United Nations agencies and organizations. These consultations will further clarify the potential commitment and roles of United Nations agencies and organizations in supporting the implementation of *The Habitat Agenda*. An inter-agency meeting called jointly by the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Administrator of UNDP is also being organized just prior to the third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee to outline the common foundation for enhanced cooperation between the agencies of the United Nations system in the follow-up to the Conference. The results of this process will be duly reflected in the CRP to be submitted to PrepCom 3, which will draw upon the structure and language of chapter 38 of Agenda 21 and chapter 5 of the WSSD programme of action, and contain specific suggestions resulting from these system-wide consultations. It is intended that the CRP will facilitate further elaboration of chapter F during the third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II.